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SOURCE IzvestiyaUSSR HEAVY INDUSTRY FAILS TO PRODUCE CONSUMER GOODS

In 1954-1956 dozens of large consumer goods enterprises will be built and put into operation and existing plants and factories will be rebuilt, expanded, and equipped with highly productive equipment. At the same time, machine-building, metallurgical, chemical, and other heavy industry enterprises will be assigned to produce consumers' goods.

The Council of Ministers USSR and the Central Committee CPSU consider a sharp increase in the output of consumer goods, including products that will improve living conditions, one of the most important tasks facing the heavy industry ministries.

Heavy industry plants are now exerting great efforts to organize the production of consumers goods on a significant scale. A survey of reserve production in heavy industry enterprises located in Sverdlovskaya Oblast showed that, by the most conservative estimates, they could produce about 20,000 tons of enamel, iron, and aluminum ware; 220,000 beds, 65 million rubles' worth of furniture, and many other products in 1954. Heavy industry enterprises in the Donbass, the Leningrad area, and along the Volga River have great possibilities for producing consumer goods.

However, there are reports that some plants are still slighting consumer goods production, dodging orders for such goods, or producing them in token quantities. One such enterprise is the Stalingrad Tractor Plant (director, Sinityn), whose consumer goods shop has actually curtailed production. In 1953, the plant has turned out a mere 200,000 rubles' worth of consumer goods with the excuse that it has the primary responsibility of producing tractors. However, the plant should produce both tractors and consumer goods.

Directors of machine-building plants in the Donbass have been slow to expand output of consumer goods. For example, the management of the Druzhkovka Toretzkiy Machine Building Plant plans to produce only a small amount of stove castings in 1954 as its total contribution to consumer goods output. Podrezov,

- 1 -

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director of the Yasinovataya Plant, decided not to produce consumer goods at all. Both plants are subordinate to the Ministry of Coal Industry, and their directors excuse their inaction by pointing out that they have received no orders from the main administration [instructing them to make consumer goods].

Ministries of the heavy machine-building industry do not take active measures to organize the output of consumer goods and do not even support spontaneous action taken by plants to further the production of such products. For example, the Slavyansk Refractory Ceramics Plant proposed to the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR that the plant organize the output of acid-proof containers for brine, faience jars, milk containers, and other products. Two months have passed but the ministry has not yet replied to this proposal.

The Sverdlovsk Pnevmostroymashina Plant of the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Machine Building is not making consumer goods in 1953 and does not plan to make any in 1954 mainly because the plant has not received any consumer goods assignments from the ministry.

The Moscow Motor Vehicle Plant imeni Stalin produces home refrigerators which are in great demand. However, the plant has not completed construction of a building for the refrigerator shop, and refrigerator production is dispersed among a number of buildings. The Ministry of Machine Building is not supplying the plant with sufficient copper tubing [for refrigerator production].

The Ministry of Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry is not helping the Riga Electrical Machine Building Plant expand the output of washing machines. The plant was supposed to produce 10,000 washing machines in 1953, but produced only 2,300 machines in the first 10 months of this year. A new shop [for producing washing machines] was supposed to be put into operation in January 1954, but the equipment for it has not yet arrived.

The Sverdlovsk Uralmash Plant makes clumsy, low-quality beds.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government call upon the millions of workers in heavy industry to effect a sharp rise in consumer goods output and to fulfill this important assignment with the same spirit they have shown in the past.

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

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